

Dear Parents / Carers,

Wowza - we are now half way through the school year. I can't quite believe it!

Time seems to be running away with us all too quickly.

Today in our kindness assembly, I shared with the children the story of the **Boy and the Starfish** and we talked about how doing something small can make a significant difference in someone's life.

We might not be able to do everything, but we can do something.



We also had a big focus on our mental health this week and explored how connections can help to improve our positive mental wellbeing.

Across the school, we took part in various activities which involved - amongst other things - identifying who our important people are and connecting with the children in our classes: discovering the similarities and difference between us. We also connected with children in schools all around the country by joining in with a live yoga session.



As part of this focus, we also had Safer Internet day this week with activities and discussions around the theme of **'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'**.

Please find some ideas for conversations starters below that you might want to use at home with your children and a link to further support on internet safety.

Our week ended with our special mufti day. Thank you so much for your participation.

More about that later!

Some of our Reception children were a bit disappointed on Monday when their visit from the Fire Crew was cut short due to an emergency. It was a bit dramatic watching the fire engine race out of the school grounds but it was a good opportunity to talk to the children about how special these people are that work so hard to keep us safe. We are hoping to book it again with them so all the children can take part in the activity. Other news in Reception is that they have been painting the most beautiful pictures of their 'wonderful world' and thinking about different places in the world, such as the sea, desert, jungle and arctic and how they are different.

Year One children have been thinking about where in the world they would like to live as they have studied hot and cold places. It was interesting to see the range of answers and the reasons that they gave.



What would you rather be a meerkat or a penguin?



In maths, there has been a focus on addition and subtraction; matching equations and stories and working out missing numbers.

If three Year 1 children get on the **rainbow** for good learning in the morning and five Year 1 children get on the **rainbow** for good learning in the afternoon, how many **rainbow** stickers will the teacher need to give out at the end of the day?

(You will also get a very happy teacher!)

For a while now, in Year Two, there has been a problem-solving focus in maths. Each day the children get a few problems to solve and they really have to think carefully about theme and use a range of maths skills. It has been great to hear how the children have engaged with this and got really good at it. Keep it up!

In RE they have been learning some of the stories from the Islamic faith and the lessons that they teach. *The Boy Who Threw Stones* is all about how we should look after and take care of our world.

Well, I hope that you all have a relaxing and enjoyable half term and we look forward to see in you on

Monday 20th February.

Take care,

Mrs Cary

Talking to our children about their use of the internet can feel challenging, especially as they, as well as us, are all at such varying stages of use and understanding. Also, the internet is a forever changing entity with new sites and apps and uses which can make it feel a little daunting at times.



It is never too early to start creating an open dialogue around this with our children though.

Advice and top tips can be found at:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/digital-wellbeing/>

Here are some conversation starters that you may like to use with your children.:

1. What do you like to use technology for? How does it help you?
2. What things make you happy when you use technology?
3. What things worry you/ make you unhappy/angry/sad when using technology?
4. What would you do if something online upset you?
5. What advice would you give to someone else in this situation?
6. How do you think your use of technology impacts your wellbeing? Good or bad?



It's OK to get help

Mufti Day Thank You



We cannot thank you enough for the kindness and generosity you have shown with our fundraiser mufti-day today. In collaboration with families and staff at St Lawrence, we have been able to raise over **£3300**. This is so wonderful!

Thank you again!

Artist of the Week: Hans Zimmer



After half term we will be listening to the sounds of Hans Zimmer. This German-born composer is recognized as one of Hollywood's most innovative musical talents. He entered the world of film music in London and after some collaboration work, soon began working on several successful solo projects. He won an Oscar for Best Original Score for the film *Rainman*, but the one that I will forever love is the score for the Disney classic, *The Lion King*. Just listen to this and you will be sure to get a lump in your throat.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RakhywpkY-k>

Amazing talent!

PARENTS' EVENING

Please don't forget that our booking system is available for you to book a 10-minute face-to-face appointment with your child's class teacher. This is a great opportunity to discuss with them your child's progress, their strengths and areas of development. Please make this a priority.

If you have already made arrangements to meet with your child's class teacher for an ISP meeting, you do not need to make an additional appointment as they will share with you progress information in that meeting as well.

I sent an email to you earlier today explaining how to make those bookings. For quick reference, you need to go to

<https://orchardsurrey.schoolcloud.co.uk/>



The booking system closes on Friday 17th November at 9:30am.



Family Learning Courses

Find out more and book your space on some free, interactive Family Learning courses and workshops. Please see the attached flyer alongside this newsletter. There are a range of a parenting courses



as well as some specific courses aimed at parents who have English as an additional language.

Daytime and evening sessions are available.

Dates for the Diary

(Please note that we will rearrange activities where we can if they affected by strike action.)

Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd February 2023

Parents' Evenings



Tuesday 21st February

PTA Meeting – Poyntz Pub @ 8pm



Wednesday 22nd February 2023

Parent Coffee Morning

with our Family Support Worker, Teresa Doe

All invited @ 9am



Wednesday 1st March 2023

Whole School - Drama Workshops



Wednesday 1st March 2023

PTA: Second-hand Clothes Sale



Thursday 2nd March 2023

World Book Day - Pyjama Day



w/c Monday 6th March 2023



Tuesday 7th March 2023

Reception: Ducklings



Monday 10th March 2023

Year 2 – Wisley Trip



w/c Monday 13th March 2023

Science Week



Monday 13th March 2023

PTA: Mother's Day Gift Sale



Thursday 16th March 2023

Year 1 and 2 Circus Skills workshop



Friday 17th March 2023

Red Nose Day



Tuesday 28th March 2023

PTA: Easter Disco



Tuesday 28th March 2023

PTA: Easter Egg Hunt



Kindness Awards



Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Atticus	Maple	Yasmin	Beech	Lukas
Elm	Matilda	Rowan	Benji	Oak	Amelie
Holly	Theo	Willow	Rhiannon	Sycamore	Teddy
		Pine	Henry		

"I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I'll put it before any of the things like courage or bravery or generosity or anything else."

Roald Dahl



Coffee Morning

with our Family Support Worker, Teresa Doe.

Wednesday 22nd February

9am in the school hall

This will be a great opportunity for parents to connect, share experiences and get to know each other, as well as meet Teresa who does so many great things to support families across our school.

All Welcome!

Please find the links below if you are able to donate using our Amazon Wish Lists:



Thank you for all items received. 😊



There are just a few spaces left in choir club for next half term, which is held after school on a Thursday. If your child is interested in joining, then please let Mrs Cary or the school office know and we can give you more information.